

Daniel GOURDAIN et al.

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 1  
~~or 2~~, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) is a chamber forming part of a water-nitrogen tower (1).

4. (Amended) Installation according to ~~any one~~ of Claims 1, 2 and 3 claim 1, characterized in that the inert gas is nitrogen, argon, air or a mixture of these gases.

5. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 2  
~~3 or 4~~, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) forms part of a water-nitrogen tower (1) placed alongside the stack (2), and the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2) are separated by a partition (3) having, as means for connecting the internal spaces, an outlet (15) for discharging, into the stack, the wet nitrogen contained in the chamber.

6. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ claims 1 and 5 claim 1, characterized in that the stack (2) is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) through which some or all of the gas introduced into the base of the stack flows.

7. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ claims 1 and 6 claim 1, characterized in that the connecting means (15) comprise a discharge outlet provided in a

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partition (3) separating the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2), and the stack is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) arranged in such a way that the top of it is at a level below the top of the discharge outlet (15).

8. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of claims 1 and 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) belongs to a water-nitrogen tower (1) having, near its base, a dry nitrogen feed pipe (11) and, in its upper part, a pipe (12) for feeding the hot water to be cooled, above the level of which a wet nitrogen discharge outlet (15), opening into the stack (2), is provided.

9. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of claims 1 and 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stack (2) includes, near its base, an air feed pipe (21) and/or a nitrogen feed pipe (22) and/or an oxygen feed pipe (23) and/or a pipe for feeding another gas coming from the distillation.